

**Department of Historic Resources
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

Accomack

DHR Id#: 001-0027-0122

Resource Identification

Property Name(s): WFF # Z-035 - Tracking Camera Turret with
Dome {Current}
Property Date: 1951
Address(s): Island Road {Current}
County/Independent City: Accomack
Vicinity of: Chincoteague
State, Zip: Virginia 23337
USGS Quad Name: WALLOPS ISLAND
Surrounding area: Rural

National Register Eligibility Status

Property is Historic (50 years or older)

Resource Description

Ownership Status: Public - Federal
Acreage: 0.5

Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Comp Type/Form</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Material Treatment</u>
Chimneys	Chimneys - None		
Foundation	Foundation - Slab	Concrete	Foundation - Poured
Porch	Porch - None		
Roof	Roof - Flat		Roof - Not visible
Structural System	Structural System - Masonry	Concrete	other

Site Description: Located at the end of an access road with a sea wall located immediately adjacent to the east. The resource is located behind building Z-40.

WUZIT Count:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Wuzit Types</u>	<u>Historic?</u>
1	Air-Related	Historic

NR Resource Count:

Individual Resource Information

WUZIT: Air-Related

Est. Date of Construction:	1951 {Owner/site visit}	Accessed?	No	Not accessible
Primary Resource?	Yes	Number of Stories:	1.0	
Architectural Style:	Other	Condition:	Good	
Interior Plan Type:	Other	Threats to Resource:	None Known	

Description: This one-story, square-shaped concrete building, built in 1951, has a poured concrete slab foundation and a flat roof, covered with aluminum sheeting, that overhangs slightly on all four sides. A modern metal hemispherical dome, set on a metal drum with rotating collar, sits on the roof of the building. The concrete sides of the building have been incised with two horizontal grooves; the center panel created by the lines is slightly recessed from the surrounding two. Aluminum flashing runs along the top outside edge of the roof. On the south elevation, there is a single door with fixed pane window. An exterior set of wood stairs provides access from grade to the roof, which is encircled with wood posts and railings. The west side has a single opening containing a portable air conditioning unit.

Cemetery Information

Bridge Information

National Register Eligibility Information

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Historic Context(s): Technology/Engineering

Historic Time Period(s):..... S- The New Dominion (1941- Present)

Significance Statement: This one-story building was built in 1951 by the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics (NACA) and was part of the second phase of permanent NACA construction efforts on Wallops Island. The building is identical to Turret Camera Tracking Station #5 (001-0027-0110, WFF # X-065), located to the north. The two stations, originally identified as Station 1 (WFF # X-065) and Station 2 (WFF # Z-035) were used as camera stations/observation platforms from which launches that took place in the area between the two buildings could be observed and recorded. Now part of the Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), the building is located on the east side of Island Road on Wallops Island. It is placed at the end of an access road, immediately adjacent to the modern sea wall, behind the Launch Control Center (WFF # Z-040 – not included in this survey) and to the north of a modern steel lattice radio tower.

The building is representative of a Technology/Engineering property type built at the beginning of the New Dominion Period (1945 – present) period. The building was constructed as a component of a rocket research facility operated by the Pilotless Aircraft Research Station (PARS) under the direction of NACA from 1946 to 1958. Until becoming part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958, PARS functioned as a rocket research facility that continually refined its capacity to collect aeronautic and scientific data through improvements in radar tracking, radio telemetry, and photographic techniques that provided significant data for the development of Cold War missile technology and manned spaceflight during the Space Race.

The Tracking Camera Turret with Dome has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C or D.

The resource is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D. As a secondary resource, it does not by itself sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with events in order to be eligible under Criterion A, nor does it sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with a person in order to be eligible under Criterion B. The resource retains its integrity but as a secondary resource of common design and materials, the resource is not eligible under Criterion C as it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. This property does not have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory under Criterion D.

Bibliographic Documentation

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Reference #: 1

Bibliographic RecordType: Map
Author: U.S. Navy
Citation Abbreviation:
Notes: "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1950.

Reference #: 2

Bibliographic RecordType: Map
Author: U.S. Navy
Citation Abbreviation:
Notes: "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1953.

Reference #: 3

Bibliographic RecordType: Book
Author: Joseph Adams Shortal
Citation Abbreviation: Shortal, 1978
Notes: "A New Dimension; Wallops Flight Test Range: The First Fifteen Years," NASA Reference Publication 1028. National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Scientific and Technical Office: N.p., 1978.

Reference #: 4

Bibliographic RecordType: Map
Author: Giffels and Valet
Citation Abbreviation:
Notes: Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

Ownership Information

Graphic Media Documentation

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21541	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 4-6

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events

CRM Event # 1,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey
Date: 2004/07/99
Organization or Person: URS Group
VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571
CRM Event Notes or Comments: 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

CRM Event # 2,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey
Date: 2003/08/08
Organization or Person: URS Group
VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571
CRM Event Notes or Comments: 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700
Bethesda, MD 20814